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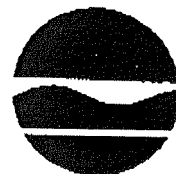
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials

Bureau, of **Hazardous** Waste Facilities, Room **460**

50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-7252

Phone: (5 18) 457-9236 FAX: (518) 457-9240



John P. Cahill
Commissioner

October 7, 1998

Mr. Clint Anuszewski
Acting Chief
HTRW Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Dear Mr. Anuszewski:

Re: Lake Ontario Ordnance Works • Project Management

I was informed this morning of a request from the **USACE • Buffalo District** to replace Ms. Justina Wesley, of your office, as project **manager** for the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site. I would like to express my opinion as the project **manager** for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

During my association with this project since 1987, I have worked with several project managers and three separate district of the **USACE**. In addition, I work on other Department of Defense facilities (Griffiss Air Force Base, Fort Drum) and by far, Ms. Wesley is the most technically proficient, **knowledgeable** and easiest to work with. Her dedication and determination has on several occasions saved this project from the loss of **funding** and unnecessary delays. Although the **positions** of the Department and the USACE have often been in disagreement, her **up-front** and honest approach has led to **successful** negotiations and the clearing of many technical and **administrative** hurdles. The removal of Ms. Wesley would result in a very significant setback to progress on this **program** and damage the working relationship between the **USACE** and the Department that have been developed during Ms. Wesley tenure.

Since a portion of the project responsibilities have **been** shifted to the Buffalo District, many unnecessary problems have arisen. Funding for the current asbestos abatement **would** have been lost if not for the efforts of Ms. Wesley. The Remedial

Mr. Clint Anuszewski

Page 2

Investigation field activities which occurred over the past summer would have been delayed significantly if not for Ms. Wesley's dedication to resolve the substantial Department comments (over 100) on the work plan and the use of Baltimore District resources to perform duties (right-of-entries) which are the responsibility of the Buffalo District. The commitment of the Buffalo District to this project is minimal at best. This opinion is supported by the lack of attendance of Mr. Pilon at several important meetings (RI workplan negotiations, Pre-construction conference for Phase 1 IRA) and the sporadic oversight on contractors performing work under contract to the Buffalo District.

In closing, I would like to say that working with the bureaucracy and procedures of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is difficult at best. The loss of Ms. Wesley's management abilities can only have negative effects.

If you would like to discuss the topic of this letter or the Department's position on the handling of the remedial programs for the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, please contact me at (5 18) 457-9253 ,

Sincerely,



Kent D. Johnson
Engineering Geologist II
Bureau of Hazardous Waste Facilities
Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials

cc: Brooks, USACE-Buffalo District
S. Lal, USACE-Baltimore District
J. Wesley, USACE-Baltimore District
D. Brouwer, USACE-New York District
J. Symms, Somerset Group
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